

Docket No.: 50277-1639

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**I. SPECIFICATION**

In the specification, paragraphs on pages 17 and 27 have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

**II. STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-22 and 27-46 remain in this application. Claims 1-22 have been allowed. Claims 23-26 have been canceled. Claims 27-46 have been added. It should be noted that Applicant has elected to amend said Claims solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making this amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled and does not concede, in any way, that the subject matter of such Claims was in fact taught or disclosed by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

**III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Office Action rejected Claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as anticipated by Ellard (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,937).

The rejection under 35 USC §102(e) is deemed moot in view of Applicant canceling claims 23-26. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §102(e).

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## IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that Claims 1-22 are allowable. Claims 27-46 have been added and independent Claims 27 and 38 incorporate the elements deemed allowable by the Office Action and are therefore allowable.

## V. MISCELLANEOUS

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

No fee is believed to be due specifically in connection with this Reply. To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 25, 2004

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 872-9306.

on June 25, 2004

by 

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